UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1992/5/Add.1
2 April 1992

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Working Group on Contemporary Forms
of Slavery
Seventeenth session
4-13 May 1992
Items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda

OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP DURING ITS FOURTEENTH, FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH SESSIONS

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER FIELDS OF CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Information submitted by Governments, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Page

Holy See 2

GE.92-12177/3684H

HOLY SEE

[18 March 1992]
[Original: French]

1. The Cardinal Secretary of State has asked this Permanent Mission to express the Holy See's deep concern at the persistence of the shameful practices of the exploitation of children in all its forms and prostitution. Pope John Paul II clearly expressed this concern in his statement of 22 February 1992 on Gorée Island (Senegal), when he visited the "House of Slaves", which His Holiness called the "African sanctuary of black suffering". The Pope condemned the traffic in black people and slavery witnessed at that site, stressed that "the scourge of slavery and all its after-effects must disappear for ever" and called on everyone to "oppose new and often insidious forms of slavery, such as organized prostitution, which shamefully exploits the poverty of the populations of the third world".

2. The words of Pope John Paul II, in particular those contained in paragraph 3 of the statement, were widely commented upon throughout the world, because they highlight the profound reasons for which slavery and all its modern forms are unacceptable.

3. The Holy See would like this document to be placed before the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its seventeenth session.